

Department of Corrections Advisory Council
Meeting Minutes
April 7, 2006
Montana Women's Prison, Billings, Montana

Opening Statements

Lt Governor Bohlinger opened the meeting and introduced two new members, Mikie Baker-Hajek and Penny Kipp, did roll call for the members attending and made a motion for approval of the minutes of the January 31st meeting. Minutes were approved as is.

Members Present

Lt. Governor John Bohlinger, Mikie Baker-Hajek, Rep. Tim Callahan, Dave Castle, William Dial, Sen. Steve Gallus, Adam Gartner, Rep. Gail Gutsche, Judge Joe Hegel, Emery Jones, Penny Kipp, Red Menahan, Robert Ross, Emily Matt Salois, Sen. Trudi Schmidt, Sen. Jim Shockley, Allan Underdal, and Valarie Weber. Channis Whiteman attended on behalf of member Carl Venne.

Old Business

Updates:

Meth Treatment Facilities Update

Director Slaughter

Corrections will contract with two nonprofit companies to establish methamphetamine treatment programs in Lewistown and Boulder. CCCS, a Butte-based company, proposed an 80-bed men's treatment center at Lewistown and Boyd Andrew of Helena offered a 40-bed women's facility at Boulder.

The treatment centers are for those offenders convicted a second time or more of methamphetamine possession. An offender will spend nine months in intense treatment at the facility, followed by six months of aftercare at a prerelease center. Offenders can be sent to the centers by the department, either directly from court or after violating conditions of parole or conditional release. In addition, the Board of Pardons and Parole could make a stay at one of the centers a condition of an inmate's parole.

Mr. Underdal asked if this program covered an offender that commits another felony such as robbery but under the influence of Meth.

Dir. Slaughter stated they could be sentenced by a judge for second time or more of methamphetamine possession. The department has more options.

Mr. Jones inquired if we had measures to analyze the cost/benefit of the program.

Dir. Slaughter stated that there are outcome measures built into the contracts.

The contractors will submit outcome measure reports on a regular basis.

Rep. Callahan would like to see a comparison of how much it would cost to incarcerate an offender in a secure facility compared to the cost of treatment in one of these facilities and when we might have such a report. When do we see the savings in the long run?

Dir. Slaughter gave an example of one we could measure right away. The offenders who complete the program will receive a sentence reduction.

Mr. Ferriter added that the department is talking with MSU to do outcome measures on this program. The department envisions that we will work with MSU to capture data and work on a national model.

Rep. Callahan asked if an offender sentenced to a first time Meth possession is put on community supervision and violates the conditions, would that individual be eligible for the program?

Dir. Slaughter mentioned that the parole officer could make that recommendation. The court has jurisdiction.

Mr. Ferriter added that the offender would probably go back in front of the judge and have their sentence revoked and would likely be sentenced to the department and that is where we could possibly place the offender in that program.

Native Court Worker Grant Update

Director Slaughter

The native court worker program in Canada works the following way. They are assigned to aid the accused in finding a lawyer, helping the offender understand the criminal justice system, and acting as liaison between the offender and the court. The worker gathers information about the offender's family and employment history, and may speak on behalf of the offender at the sentencing. The worker does not act as a lawyer or give legal advice. The worker can help prevent instances where offenders are so intimidated by the justice system that they merely plead guilty rather than try to cope with the confusing legal morass. The worker can help determine if an offender would be suitable for sentencing to tribal corrections programs that include prerelease centers, probation, chemical dependency treatment, mental health services and counseling by elders.

With a one year \$100,000 grant from Representative Denny Rehberg, the department, in conjunction with the Public Defender's office, is starting a pilot project in the Great Falls area using Canada's program as a guide. Randi Hood, of the Public Defender's office, has offered office space for the project. Data shows that the Great Falls area is where the program should be piloted. Working with a network of state and local agencies, this should make a successful pilot project.

Sen. Schmidt asked where the office will be located.

Dir. Slaughter stated it will be in the Great Falls Public Defender's office, but foresees that they would be able to travel some.

Sen. Schmidt also requested a start date.

Dir. Slaughter answered that the department and Ms. Hood are working towards midsummer.

Sen. Gallus commented that July 1st is what the goal is. Great Falls and Billings were both looked at, but the funding wouldn't cover both locations for the pilot. Even if the grant isn't available next year Randi Hood's office is looking to take over the project and add it to the Public Defender budget. If the pilot is successful, the program will be expanded.

Mr. Ross inquired as to the involvement of tribal governments.

Dir. Slaughter said it is in process, trying to work out what we are going to call the program. Also mentioned that this is not a corrections focus and will hand it off to another agency.

Mr. Ross asked how the department plans to work with intertribal relations.

Dir. Slaughter said the consistent factors are the elders and there should be great support.

Mrs. Baker-Hajek commented that at some time in the future to offer the same services to Native American victims.

Dir. Slaughter said that victims are an integral part of the system in Canada. Victims are part of the healing circle process and that offenders are accountable to themselves and to the victims, elders and their peers.

Chairman Bohlinger mentioned the statistical data on the high amount of Native Americans incarcerated in the state, and how disproportionate they are. Six percent of the population of the state is Native American, yet for incarcerated men it is nineteen percent and twenty-three percent for incarcerated women. This information alone should build a case for looking at this issue from a new perspective and complimented the department is doing a great job of working on this.

Anna Whiting Sorrell, Policy Advisor for the Governor, was invited to comment by the chairman. She gave support for the department on how it is working on Native American issues and that the Governor supports this project. The group working on this project is also contacting each tribe to come up with a suitable name. The court worker just one element of what the Governor is committed to for change for the Native American population of the state.

Sen. Schmidt asked if all the tribes were committed to this project.

Anna Whiting Sorrell said that the project is still in the informal stages and many tribal representatives have been involved, but it is not finalized yet and still needs to be worked out before presenting it to all of the tribes.

Channis Whiteman commented that the main issues right now for tribes are Meth and that the youth culture has been greatly affected by outside influences, for example when youth go to outside colleges. To stay true to the native culture the tribes need to rely on the elders.

Special Needs Project Update

Director Slaughter

The department is in collaboration with the Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS), following an initiative from the Governor, to work together on common issues. The department directors, and now many staff, meet on a regular basis. One of the biggest projects the team is working on, at the moment, is the forensic “Dr. X” building on the Warm Springs Campus. It is a well designed high security building that would be hard to replace. Currently the building is being used for the very successful WATCH program, but the department is pondering moving the WATCH program out of this higher security structure into a more suitable building. What this building could then be used for is a secure behavioral health treatment facility by moving offenders with behavioral health issues out of the Montana State Prison and moving the more difficult population out of the State Hospital, yet keeps the two populations separated. We could then use the expertise of the DOC for the security aspects and use the treatment expertise of DPHHS. The image the team wants to convey is that it is not prison, but also not a hospital, it would be a more secure environment for the DPHHS commitments that are harder to manage and a more treatment based environment for the corrections offenders with behavioral health issues. The team has had a mapping session to work as a group on some of the obstacles and modalities that would be used make this project a success.

Another project that the department is working on for special needs offenders is the chronic care/end of life population. Adult Community Corrections Administrator, Mike Ferriter, is working with the prerelease directors around the state to involve them in this idea. The prereleases could be a better environment and a more cost effective way to manage this population. Great Falls prerelease is looking into access to services and what the possible costs would be. This could also possibly be used in conjunction with medical parole.

Mr. Ross asked if there is a best practices model to follow.

Dir. Slaughter believes that the state is the pioneer.

Mr. Ross asked if there are concerns of accreditation.

Dir. Slaughter there are some concerns, referred the question to Mrs. Whiting Sorrell.

Anna Whiting Sorrell stated that Montana is trying to deal with the issue of overcrowding. The state is thinking out of the box. There is going to be a consistent protocol for treatment modalities and formularies for mental health throughout the state. When a person becomes a ward of the state they will get continuity of treatment no matter their placement, be it secure custody or

community placement.

Dir. Slaughter added that moving one hundred offenders with behavioral health issues out of the prison would be like moving twice that, just in the amount of pressure relieved by the level of care required.

Rep. Gutsche asked if there was a timeline for this project.

Dir. Slaughter will do a project presentation for the council as we progress.

Sen. Schmidt inquired to where these one hundred offenders will come from.

Dir. Slaughter said that the department concentrates the most care intensive and mentally ill offenders at MWP and MSP.

MSP Population Update

Warden Mike Mahoney

The warden mentioned, before he started his presentation, that the population at MSP is still above emergency capacity. The prison is working on opening the old reception unit as E-unit. It will add 80 beds to transfer high side inmates that are classified as low side inmates to a lower custody area.

Transportation Update

Warden Mike Mahoney

Since the last advisory meeting, Warden Mahoney and Director Slaughter attended the Montana Sheriffs & Peace Officers Association (MSPOA) meeting. The department and the association are working together on the transition, including transportation protocols, and the department will be taking over effective July 1st. The department is working with the union on how the prison will staff the project. Historically the most senior positions would be posted on transportation, and the management would like to be able to select who will staff this project.

Sen. Shockley asked if this system will just be the artery of Montana.

Warden Mahoney stated that this is correct. Mainly on the Interstate 90 corridor.

Dir. Slaughter reaffirmed the critical nature of overcrowding and emergency capacity. If there is an additional crisis there will be no room for movement. An out-of-state move is still a viable option if public safety becomes jeopardized. The system is full, even parts of the system not under the jurisdiction of the department.

Mr. Underdal inquired on the possibility of opening 100 beds in Shelby for the US Marshal Service.

Dir. Slaughter stated that the proposal from CCA is to add a 98 bed pod for the US Marshal Service. This would benefit the state as we currently compete for

bed space. The department is working with the marshal on this and discussion is in process. The department is reviewing the purchasing option of the contract to see if this would also be covered.

Warden Mahoney added that the state would not be gaining an additional 100 beds, as federal and state offenders are housed separately.

Sen. Shockley inquired if there was an alternative to the abundant amount of movements around the state and if there was a solution to the costs associated with those movements. The senator also stated that if we have designated presentence jail beds for the marshal we could use the beds at Shelby for state offenders.

Warden Mahoney said that there is no mixing of state and fed beds. Federal presentence detainees must be kept separate. The two systems are quite different.

Dir. Slaughter said that we would have to work out a system that doesn't mix beds, but avoid a bidding war to cut down on competitions.

Sheriff Castle stated that pretrial and post trial federal offenders are kept on county side. The state has worked hard to keep a balance. To cut down on transportation, implementing video conferencing has helped.

Mr. Underdal stated video conferencing is a great tool and would like to have it implemented in Shelby soon.

Warden Mahoney added that federal detainees stay at the county facility for the duration of the trial, which cuts down on movement.

Sen. Schmidt asked if transportation was just for the Interstate 90 corridor, or if Interstate 15 would be handled.

Dir. Slaughter affirmed that it would be Interstate 90 twice a week and Interstate 15/ Highway 93 once a week.

Report From Study Subcommittee

Rep. Gail Gutsche

Rep. Gutsche said that it has been a three meeting, fact finding, research process. The meeting goals were, on par with the Governors goals for corrections, to look at least restrictive individualized programs and services needed in community corrections to keep non-dangerous, nonviolent offenders out of prison, with the intent to significantly reduce prison populations. Another goal is to make re-entry into the community an easier, smoother and more successful process by providing the necessary resources and services needed as offenders transition. Because the huge rise in the number of incarcerated women is largely attributed to crimes related to Meth, and the disproportionately high incarceration rate of American Indians is partially due to cultural differences in navigating the court and penal systems, attention will be focused on the special needs of these populations.

At the subcommittee meeting there were lots of different presentations. One

focus was on the role of treatment courts. The basic concept behind treatment courts involves a dramatic intervention by the court in cooperation with an entire team including the defense, prosecution, treatment, education, and law enforcement. In return for a promise of a reduced sentence, appropriate non-violent offenders are given the option of entering voluntarily into court-supervised treatment. The rules and conditions of participation are clearly stated in a contract entered into by the defendant, the defense attorney, the district attorney, and the court. The results have been overwhelmingly positive and treatment courts have gone into operation all over the country

Some of the other conclusions were the need for more affordable housing, seamless treatment, anger management focuses, greater community corrections social services (including case management for special needs), more services for single men, and community education on sex offenders.

Sen. Schmidt stated that there will be a bill on treatment courts and asked how many courts there were.

Rep. Gutsche said that Judge Larson stated at one meeting that there were around 1,500 drug courts and over 100 mental health courts nationally.

Mr. Menahan asked why the department hasn't done its own mental health treatment programs in the community.

Rep. Gutsche said that we should move more into a collaborative role with other agencies to handle mental health issues.

Warden Mahoney stated that we are currently working with DPHHS to do a collaborative effort to utilize the professional expertise of all state agencies to serve special needs in the community.

Mrs. Weber stated that the services are there. The issue is accessibility to services and treatment. She has noticed that some of the public is not welcome just because of their appearance. There are other roadblocks such as location, hours of operation, and transportation to and from services. She also stated that intervention and prevention is less costly.

Sen. Gallus said that the subcommittee has looked at having case managers work side by side with P&P officers. One thing that needs to be looked at is what is best for the outcome we are trying to reach and whether these case managers should be private providers or public employees.

Sheriff Castle agreed with Ms. Weber about prevention. Mentioned that treatment courts work amazing but feels corrections will still get the worst of the worst.

Judge Hegel mentioned that drug courts are taking more of an active role in some of the tougher cases.

Mr. Ross would support the push towards more treatment courts. One need is getting the community to support the collaboration. He opined that case management works better with private community providers.

Mr. Ferriter added that corrections is interested in providing more support to treatment courts with additional specialized P&P officers.

Sen. Schmidt asked for Mrs. Weber comment on roadblocks to access to

services.

Mrs. Weber reiterated, for juveniles, that hours of available services and the appearance of the public that need assistance. Most have to have three appointments just to see a treatment person. One is just to fill out paperwork. Funding is constantly an issue.

Budget Overview

Gary Hamel, Centralized Services Administrator

Mr. Hamel pointed out the breakdown of the budget overages on a spread sheet in the handouts. There is an 11.5 million dollar budget shortfall. It is being driven by the population overages and the rate at which the population is growing. For example, county jail holds is at 2.3 million dollars, and the total for secure facilities is 6.3 million dollars. The department has also added more probation and parole officers. Another contributor is vacancy savings.

Sheriff Castle asked if the 2.3 million is above what was projected.

Mr. Hamel stated that county jails were budgeted at 89 ADP, the projected is 196.

Sen. Gallus asked if the supplemental was at around 9%, would that be considered normal.

Mr. Hamel said he would look into the averages for the state and for the department.

Dir. Slaughter said the department is also looking into changing vacancy savings through statute as 4% of it is such.

New Business

Secure Facility Placement Issues

Siting of Correctional Facilities in Billings

Dave Armstrong, Alternatives Inc.; Marion Dozier, Billings resident

Dave Armstrong gave an overview of the plans to site the 50 bed Billings Assessment & Sanction Center (BASC) at the Howard Johnson Motor Inn. The center is for female offenders sentenced to community placement but who need mental health assessments, substance abuse screenings and other testing to determine where they should be sent. Two other uses Alternatives Inc. has planned for the building is an expansion of its downtown pre-release center, with up to 65 beds for women; and a 60-day chemical dependency program, with up to 60 beds. Since Alternatives started in the area they have been good neighbors and have had great community support. Some of the obstacles they have had to overcome is location, access to fire, police and emergency services, appropriate zoning, neighborhood planning and transportation issues.

Marion Dozier, a 40 year resident and member of many community groups,

opined against the placement of the BASC program, and mentioned the impact on neighborhood. She gave a history of corrections in Billings supported the programs that are there but argued against additions.

Jim Ronquillo, Shirley McDermott and Peggie Gaghen, all Billings community leaders, also opined about the addition of more corrections in the area saying the South 27th Street Corridor already houses three of the four correctional facilities in the Billings area, and that the intention was to disperse such facilities through the three zoning districts in which they are allowed, and not to concentrate the uses on the east side of South 27th Street.

Chairman Bohlinger summarized the issue and stated that the council was not there to decide on the issue, but to be appraised of the issues corrections faces when trying to site a facility and to be appraised of the community's concerns.

Generic Factors Affecting Siting

Director Slaughter; Warden Mike Mahoney; Warden Jo Acton; Pat Smith

Dir. Slaughter stated the biggest factor in siting is community approval, appearance and support. Screening committees have also become a big part in effective siting, giving communities the opportunity to say who comes into the community or not.

Warden Acton said that appearance of the facility helps with acceptance of the neighborhood.

Warden Mahoney added that there are 980,000 people in the state according to the last census. Montana State Prison, with a total population of around 2,100 people including offenders and staff, is as large a community as most towns in state. Siting for a facility that size you need to be able to support the vast amount of resources and services needed, as rural as the state is. Deer Lodge has been invaluable in the success of the men's prison.

Pat Smith gave his view on siting the Shelby facility and the difficulties of siting secure care facilities. He stated that Shelby was instrumental in the success of siting the Shelby facility. National standards and administrative rules also drive how the state sites a secure facility.

Mr. Underdal also added that the amount of collaboration needed to site the facility. A lot of the process was a fact finding mission to answer community questions. The community was mostly supportive of the project. Following through with promises to the community is necessary to keep relationships open with the community. The warden of Crossroads, Jim McDonald, also has a radio show once week to keep the community informed and has a question and answer period during his show to discuss concerns.

Mr. Menahan asked if the Shelby facility was in or out of city limits.

Mr. Underdal stated it was in the city limits.

Mr. Ross added that the phenomenon of siting is much bigger than corrections. The state has issues with siting clinical and institutional facilities for health and mental health services. Smaller communities feel that some programs are too

large to support.

Programs & services available & needed to help female offenders stay out of prison or not return to prison

In prison:

Life skills/vocational/therapeutic programs at Montana Women's Prison

Warden Acton and Montana Women's Prison inmates

Warden Acton pointed out the MWP fact sheet that gives an outline of the opportunities available to the female offenders at MWP. It lists a large amount of programming classes, industries and prison work programs, education classes, parenting classes, vocational computer programs and volunteer religious programs. Part of the mission of the prison is to provide opportunities to the offenders to gain skills to be successful when they get out. MWP is only limited only by creativity and space.

With Peer based communication and group based programming the prison is seeing reduction in disciplinary, as the women are learning to communicate effectively. Two major programs that were pointed out are Prison Paws for Humanity and Toastmasters. Toastmasters is a proven way to improve communication skills. By participating in a fun and supportive Toastmasters group, offenders become better speakers and leaders and gain confidence to succeed in whatever path they chose in life. Prison Paws for Humanity has female inmates training service dogs and also provides obedience training for dogs. Most programs at MWP are based on a therapeutic community model which uses a hierarchical model with stages that reflect increased levels of personal and social responsibility. Peer influence, mediated through a variety of group processes, is used to help individuals learn and assimilate social norms and develop more effective social skills.

Mrs. Matt Salois asked about Native Americans involvement.

Warden Acton mentioned the sweat lodge opening in May and the medicine wheel program.

Penny Kipp asked about consistencies in community release after incarceration.

Warden Acton said that there is continuum of care. The prison works closely with probation & parole officers to insure a smooth transition.

Mr. Menahan commented how the therapeutic community model has positively affected a constituent.

Chairman Bohlinger noticed correspondence courses on the list and asked about how they are paid for.

Warden Acton said they are paid for by the offenders or by applying for grants.

Vocational Training Programming Overview

Gayle Lambert, Montana Correctional Enterprises (MCE) Administrator

Mrs. Lambert covered a handout/ PowerPoint presentation that gave an overview of MCE. MCE provides work and training opportunities for eligible offenders in conjunction with the department's mission. One goal is to train inmates in real world environments to help with success in the community. MCE is mostly self supporting with 83% proprietary funds and 17% general funded. Mrs. Lambert listed all the major programs and how they are funded, whether self supporting or by General Fund. There are currently 340 male inmates that are working or training within MCE, which is 24% of the MSP population and 35 females at MWP which is 14% of the population working or training within MCE. The question of why there is disparity between the male and female populations can be answered by the difference in size of the facilities, how long the programs have been in existence, length of stay, and the number of program qualified offenders available for assignments.

The programs that are being considered for MWP need to offer real world experience to help with offender independence, the program needs to be self supporting or able to be supported by General Fund, able to continue long term, partnerships with private companies, and have limited competition with the private sector. Mrs. Lambert listed the private companies that MCE is looking at partnerships with, as presented in the handout. She also gave an overview of the things they have done or are currently doing with offenders that are incarcerated in Montana. Some of the constraints MCE has to deal with are offenders with poor work habits that are unmotivated, the daily lives of inmates, turnover of inmates, security compliance and overcrowding. The benefits of having MCE is it is a positive impact on the Montana economy by saving money for the state and by interest earned that is reverted to the General Fund. MCE is a good neighbor by providing programs and training for offenders and by supporting the community.

Rep. Gutsche asked how the department decides on what programs to have.

Mrs. Lambert said that MCE receives 5 to 10 calls per month offering programs and look into every one of them and decide based on policy.

Sen. Shockley asked why logging was stopped.

Mrs. Lambert said it was shut down for a variety of reasons but one was because of an escape.

Sen. Shockley asked if logging was less secure than ranching.

Warden Mahoney added it was shut down because of safety issues, with inmate turnover and higher risk job training.

Sen. Schmidt asked about the Toyota program.

Mrs. Lambert responded that it is one of the private partnerships. It is an annual contract to do training cut-aways for Toyota.

Sen. Schmidt asked if the Toyota project gives offenders skills for placement.

Mrs. Lambert said that the offenders that work on the project usually get jobs as mechanics and are very placeable.

Pending Lawsuit

Diana Koch, Chief Legal Counsel

Mrs. Koch stated that about a year ago a disgruntled female offender wrote a 20 page letter to Human Rights Bureau of the Department of Labor and Industry alleging discrimination at MWP. The Human Rights Bureau wrote a complaint and served it on the department. They found cause for discrimination in three areas: educational, vocational and work programs offered. After the Human Rights Bureau finds cause it goes to a conciliation stage. We found an issue with conciliating with an inmate, as she wanted \$75,000 and an immediate parole. Conciliation broke down and it went to a hearing stage. At this stage we went back to the conciliation stage as it wasn't clear if it was one inmate or a class of inmates. Went through a research period to find parity with the male inmates. Funding is an issue and there are not as many classrooms at MWP as there are at MSP. MWP needs another full time teacher, so there is less of a wait time to get classes. There is a necessity for more programs at MWP, but need more room. The department is and has been trying to find a solution that is mutually beneficial for both males and females.

Sen. Gallus asked if the suit mainly about vocational parity with the men.

Mrs. Koch stated that the department is working at providing as many vocational and educational opportunities for the women as there is for men. It is not just an issue of parity between men and women; it is a parity issue between facilities as well.

In communities:

Probation & parole officers and women offenders in community corrections

The MWP inmates and the female offenders on community placement asked the chairman if they could combine their presentations into one.

Chairman Bohlinger asked them to please continue.

Pam Bunke, Region IV Supervisor for Probation & Parole, and **Marge Nash**, PO2 and the family drug court liaison in Billings, opened the presentation. Mrs. Bunke stated that she would like to see instant access to treatment for community offenders that need help but are on the verge of using again.

Mrs. Bunke said that Kristina Jennings, who was going to present, had to leave to make it to school. **Mrs. Nash** gave an overview of Mrs. Jennings history and of her successes.

Jamie Ady gave her story on her experiences and how she is now working with corrections and is doing public service announcements for the battle against

Meth. Inmates **Laura Ison, Michelle Torgerson** and **Twila Halford** also gave their stories, described the programming and vocational opportunities they have had while incarcerated. All stated the Prison Paws for Humanity program is the clear favorite with a very positive outcome, and second is the Toastmasters class. The offenders also applauded the therapeutic community model as a positive influence.

Working Lunch (includes success stories from Billings offenders involved in the TEAM Mentoring program)

Sam Kinser, T.E.A.M. Mentoring State Board of Directors, with Curtis Gifford & Teresa Carlson.

TEAM Mentoring is a non-profit, faith-based volunteer organization that teams with churches and offenders to form healing, mentoring relationships. Curtis Gifford and Teresa Carlson gave their success stories from being in the program. Both offenders stated that the program works well with P&P and is a key to their successes. Two of the key elements of mentoring were help to cut ties with bad influences and help learning life skills with positive influences. They also applauded ISP as they had to be accountable for every minute of their lives.

Mr. Underdal asked how often one meets with their mentor.

Mrs. Carlson said she meets over two or three hours a week with a mentoring team.

Mr. Gifford said he meet almost 18 hours a week.

Mr. Menahan asked about training.

Mrs. Carlson said that volunteers mostly from community churches are trained to mentor.

Mr. Menahan asked if there were costs involved.

Mr. Gifford said that the volunteers pay \$30 for the training.

Rep. Gutsche asked if Mrs. Carlson lived at the TEAM Mentoring home.

Mrs. Carlson said for eight months. There is a nine month limit, with rules to follow and a group dinner that was mandatory.

Sen. Schmidt asked if there are other team homes

Mr. Gifford said there are two, a men's and a women's home in Billings and they are working on Bozeman and Great Falls. The mentoring program is available in other communities, though.

Sen. Schmidt asked how they were introduced to the program.

Mrs. Carlson said that the county jail introduced her to the program.

Mrs. Baker-Hajek asked since it was faith based, if different religions were represented.

Mr. Kinser stated that it was non denominational.

Mrs. Baker-Hajek inquired if there is pressure to change religion.

Mr. Kinser work with churches in community and represent as many religious beliefs as possible.

Mr. Menahan asked if the programs at MSP helped with Mr. Gifford's transition. **Mr. Gifford** said yes, because he needed to change, but you have to want to change.

Sen. Schmidt asked if one had to have a faith.

Mr. Kinser said no, they don't.

Sen. Schmidt asked about eastern religions.

Mr. Kinser said they have not had one yet and it would take some work. They do work with Native American religions.

Rep. Gutsche asked how many are in the homes.

Mr. Kinser said three in the women's and seven in the men's.

Chairman's Discussion

Lt Governor Bohlinger

Chairman Bohlinger brought the Executive Order and the Governor's goals for Corrections forward for discussion.

Summarize the order and goals-

Sen. Schmidt opined that it was a great idea to have a group such as this to bring goals as a focus. Most council members would agree that we, as a state, need to do something different.

Chief Dial believes the common goal is helping people. Treatment should be at the forefront.

Sen. Gallus stated there is so much information that the group has received. Soon the group needs to come together and find three solid aspects of corrections that can be agreed upon and recommend solutions to the Governor to make a change.

Mrs. Weber asked the group to consider using the successful models of the youth justice system as a guide.

Sheriff Castle recommends changing traditional incarceration and agrees with Mrs. Weber on looking at the youth system. But the group needs to remember that the system is overcrowded and we do need beds. The state is currently at a critical stage and that fact should not be overlooked.

Mr. Underdal agreed with Sheriff Castle and added that programming for inmates has been cut in the past from the budget, but believes those programs still need to be funded.

Mrs. Matt Salois added that she is encouraged by the effort of the group to add focus to Native American issues and would like to see a subcommittee on those issues.

Mr. Ross stated that one of the three things, mentioned by Sen. Gallus should be Native American related.

Mr. Jones said the state needs to focus on a continuum of care model for the

whole system.

Panel on methamphetamine and its impact on the corrections system

Kathryn Woodward, Meth prevention specialist, Yellowstone City-County Health Department, Billings; Rhonda Stenerson, chemical dependency counselor, Billings; Sue Orand, clinical services coordinator, Montana Women's Prison; Pat Osterhout, licensed addiction counselor, Montana State Prison

Kathryn Woodward started with a PowerPoint presentation and a summary of what meth is and gave examples of why people start taking meth broken down by gender and age. She explained the effects of meth, physically, psychologically and physiologically. Mrs. Woodward gave an overview of the effects of withdrawal and the lasting effects of the toxins. She also reported on the comparison of different drugs and how each raise the level of dopamine, which causes euphoria and feeling of wellness and the long term effects of inability for the body to produce dopamine. Mrs. Woodward also explained that the damaging effects to the brain can be reversed over a long period of time.

Rhonda Stenerson tied into Mrs. Woodward's presentation with a PowerPoint presentation and focused on how to be successful with recovery and what to do to help addicts avoid or control triggers that make users want to relapse. She explained how simple day-to-day, moment-to-moment structure is a main component of the recovery process and how feeling overwhelmed is a major contributor to relapse. Keeping things simple and using mentors are good tools to help in recovery by teaching basic life skills and coping skills.

Sen. Shockley inquired about an artificial dopamine to help in recovery.

Mrs. Woodward stated it doesn't work because the receptors in the brain are damaged.

Sen. Shockley stated that after hearing how long it takes for recovery and not to sound negative, but locking them up for a long time seems the best option.

Mrs. Stenerson agreed that that is what it sounds like, but community treatment options are a better option within a structured environment. "Structured" does not mean you have to be locked up.

Sue Orand added that structure means self imposed and learned structure on how to live "life".

Mrs. Baker-Hajek inquired about the victimization aspect of meth abuse.

Mrs. Stenerson stated that there are studies available.

Mr. Jones mentioned that there are many benefits to treatment in the community.

Mrs. Stenerson supplemented Mr. Jones' statement with the example of the successes of family drug courts.

Mr. Menahan asked about the propensity for violence and crime.

Mrs. Woodward said there is a correlation with the purity of the meth and being prone to violence.

Mr. Ross stated that funding streams don't follow the meth treatment modality.

Judge Hegel gave an overview of his treatment court and how resources are pooled and best practices are being used to help with meth addiction treatment.

Sue Orand started her presentation on the impact meth has had on MWP. Out of the 41 intakes the prison has had this year, 23 of them had sentences where meth directly related to their crime or revocation, 15 of them were related to alcohol, two were addicted to opiates and the last one was a repeat offender. Of 33 women placed into the Intensive Challenge Program, 16 self proclaimed that meth was their drug of choice. Of 65 women in the BASC program, 36 of them stated meth was their drug of choice, but only 8 of them were revoked because of meth. All but two of the women had claimed substance use of some type.

Mrs. Orand compared the data from this with data from the past. The data shows that the increase of meth use has increased substantially. She also added that treatment seems to work well at MWP because of the structured environment and programming available.

Pat Osterhout gave her presentation on treatment at MSP. Currently at MSP treatment is started when they are closer to discharge. The effects of meth are starting to reverse and the inmates are more open to treatment. In the Intensive Treatment Unit inmates receive two months of semi-inpatient counseling in groups of fifteen with one counselor. MSP is also in the development of a six to nine month meth treatment program. The program will follow the modality of the two new meth treatment facilities except for a smaller scaled version of the therapeutic community. Relapse prevention and life skills training will be the focus of the final phases of the program. MSP will work with Adult Community Corrections on a continuum of care model to further the offenders success after release.

Presentation on nonviolent offender designation vs. risk to the community

Warden Acton

Warden Acton summarized that the public perception that non-violent offenders means they are not dangerous or that there are no real victims and that they shouldn't be incarcerated is not accurate. Non-violent doesn't mean there is no risk to the community. The statistics show that 80% of the population at MWP is designated non-violent. The designation is based off of the Department of Justice's list of violent offenses. For example, selling meth, DUI and DUI fatalities are still listed as non-violent offences. It doesn't mean that the offender did not make a negative impact on their community. The focus needs to be on whether they are a risk to the community and not base it just on the crime that they committed. Many of the females are nonviolent criminals but are such extreme repeat offenders that it creates an even higher risk to the community as they haven't seen the need for change.

Inmates **Laura Ison, Michelle Torgerson** and **Twila Hallford** did a presentation

on the victimization class they attended while at MWP. They pointed out how their non-violent crimes have affected their victims, the victims family and the community in general. They compared it to a ripple in a pond and as it goes outward and gets bigger and bigger.

Public Comment

Scott Crichton, Executive Director, ACLU of Montana spoke on the letter to the Lt. Governor regarding the ACLU lawsuit and whether MSP is in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. Mr. Crichton said he does not believe that MSP is where it needs to be in many aspects both for the inmates and the staff. He also stated that drug users and mental illnesses do not belong in prison. His final comment was fear does not affect criminal behavior when they have addictions.

Mr. Menahan would like to see a better breakdown of the costs paid to the ACLU.

Sen. Gallus invited Mr. Crichton to present to the council at a future meeting as a speaker.

Discussion of June meeting agenda and location

Tuesday June 27th, Arlee Pow Wow grounds. Arlee, MT
Tours on the 26th

Set August meeting date and location Next date

August 18th, Pine Hills Youth Correctional Facility
Tour the day before

Adjourn

Minutes condensed and summarized by Ted Ward, Directors Office, Corrections